

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

-- Specifically, the gain control unit 110 includes a sample hold unit 110-1, for example, for holding the immediately preceding input signal (the short interval average value r_s , for example) while no signal is input thereto. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

-- The switching control unit 118 includes a comparator 118-1 which compares the difference value Δr_i with a preset threshold value Δr_{th} , and by performing the following determining operations (1), (2) and (3), changes the connection of the switch 119 in accordance with the determining operations. In this case, the AGC circuit performs the control operation with clock timings shown in Fig. 12J. In the case where the AGC circuit is in standby state awaiting the arrival of a received signal input, however, the switch 119 normally connects the terminal a to the terminal d. --